US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: 13 October 2005

EXPIRATION DATE: 14 November 2005

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2005-523

REFERENCE NAME: Kuluk Bay

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Missile Defense Agency GMD-JPO
Attn: Ellis Gilliland
P.O. Box 1500
Huntsville, Alabama 35807-1500

LOCATION: Township 96 South, Range 194 West, Seward Meridian, Kuluk Bay, Adak, Alaska, 51.8830°N, 176.5530°W. For further information about the City of Adak and a community overview, you may access the Alaska Community Database Online at-
http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm

WORK: The project involves installation of a permanent mooring system (Drag Embedded Anchors) and anchored floating security boom/fence (plan enclosed).

PURPOSE: The anchoring system will be used to moor a Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX) Radar Platform within the current designated “Restricted Area” of Kuluk Bay. Reference- Adak Island (Sweeper Cove, Finger and Scabbard Bays) NOAA Chart 16476.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: You may view the Ballistic Missile Defense Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Section at-
http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/mdalink/html/enviro.html

Currently the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD), SBX Placement and Operation, Adak, Alaska Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is available for public review at-
http://www.mda.mil/mdalink/html/enviro.html

There are no anticipated changes in local air traffic patterns or impacts on air space. Security boom perimeter will extend out approximately 500 yards from the SBX.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are a number of registered or eligible properties within the Adak area. The Adak Army Base and Adak Naval Operating Base is a designated National Historic Landmark (87000841). This proposed project is located within Kuluk Bay, approximately 2 miles east of the City of Adak, within the current “Restricted Area”. It has been determined that this project is located outside the historic areas of concern and no further action is required. Consultation of the AHRS, and review of the National Park Service List of National Landmarks and Historical Sites, constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. Any comments the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the National Park Service may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the threatened spectacled eider (Somateria fischeri) and Steller’s eider (Polysticata stelleri) and the endangered Short-tailed Albatross (Phoebastria albatrus). More than 25 marine mammal species live in or migrate through the Bering Sea ecoregion during the year (World Wildlife Fund, 2005). Several species of listed whales, such as the sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), finback (*Balaenoptera physalus*), blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), right (*Balaena glacialis*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales are found in the Bering Sea. Killer whales, Minke and gray whales, and fur seals are also found in the area. (World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy of Alaska, 1999; Pacific Coast Joint Venture, 2003) Marine mammals are present in the bays and harbors of Adak either year-round or during migration. These include non-listed species such as the harbor seal, orca (killer whale), northern harbor porpoise, and Dall’s porpoise, as well as listed species such as Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), sea otters (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*), and whales. Minke whales are often seen around the Central Aleutians and inside Kuluk Bay. Listed whales that have been observed include the endangered sperm whale, fin whale, and humpback whale.

(Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Engineering Field Activity, Northwest, 2003) A Steller sea lion (federally endangered) rookery is located on the southwestern portion of the island at Lake Point (figure 2-1) and a haulout area is located at Cape Moffett (figure 2-1), northwest of the proposed SBX mooring location (Alaskan Command, 1996) and outside the Region of Influence (ROI).

Preliminarily, the described activity will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The described activity is in the general habitat area for various life stages of approximately 5 species of crab, 3 species of ground fish, 3 species of rockfish, other species (Pacific Ocean perch, Walleye Pollock, Sable fish, Skate etc.) and scallops. For additional information on specific species within this project location, access- http://akr-mapping.fakr.noaa.gov/Website/EFH/viewer.htm. The mooring and security system operations are not expected to drastically change the substrate or reduce the quality and/or quantity of the Essential Fish Habitat designated in the waters surrounding Adak. No specific sensitive habitat has been identified that would be impacted by the mooring (reference 3.3, Biological Resources, in the SBX Placement and Operation, Adak, Alaska EA above). This Public Notice initiates consultation requirements with the NMFS under the MSFCMA. We have insufficient information at this time to assess the cumulative effects of the proposed work on EFH, but cumulative effects will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. Any conservation recommendations regarding EFH for federally managed fish will also be considered in our final assessment of the described work. This proposed project may also adversely affect associated species such as major prey or predator species which are not covered by Fishery Management Plans.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit

would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(l) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Medrick R. Northrop at (907) 753-2724; toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email to regpagemaster@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program was submitted directly to the state and is currently under review.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

Missile Defense Agency GMD-JPO

SBX Mooring

Project Purpose and Description (Blocks 18 and 19)

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) proposes to establish the necessary mooring infrastructure to position, secure, and operate the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX) at the Primary Support Base (PSB) at Adak Island, Alaska (Figure 1). The Proposed Action would include the following:

- A means of positioning the SBX in the waters of Kuluk Bay near Adak,
- SBX operations while at the PSB,
- Designation and enforcement of a security zone in the waters surrounding the SBX, which could include the installation and use of a floating security boom/fence around the SBX, and/or operation of security patrol boats,
- Use of onshore PSB assets and infrastructure to support SBX operations, and
- Operation of an SBX support vessel.

The mission of the SBX, a component of the GMD system, is two-fold. The SBX will support testing in order to improve the system. In addition, the SBX will be a component of Defensive Operations, which uses radars, satellites, ground-based interceptors, and Navy ships to defend the United States against a limited intercontinental ballistic missile attack.

The SBX consists of a converted semi-submersible mobile oil-drilling platform on which an X-band radar and other GMD system components have been mounted (Figure 2). The self-propelled vessel is 238 feet wide and 398 feet long. While entering and leaving Kuluk Bay at transit draft, the SBX will have a height of approximately 250 feet. While at Adak, the SBX vessel would ballast down to operational draft and position itself in Kuluk Bay. At operational draft, the SBX would have a height of approximately 200 feet above the water's surface. The main deck of the SBX would house living quarters, workspaces, storage, power generation, bridge and control rooms, and the floor space and infrastructure necessary to support the operating equipment.

The proposed method for positioning the SBX would include the installation of a permanent mooring system to secure the SBX in Kuluk Bay. Based on geophysical surveys performed in the Mooring Study Area in Kuluk Bay, a catenary mooring system that uses drag-embedment-type anchors would be the most suitable type of anchoring system for the seafloor conditions (mostly dense sand). The permanent mooring system would include 8 drag–embedment-type anchors (Figure 3). Each anchor would weigh approximately 77,000 pounds and would be up to 30 feet wide. Attached to each anchor would be a preinstalled segment of the mooring chain, clump weights, and a pickup buoy that would enable the end of the preinstalled segment of the mooring chain to be available on the surface of the water during mooring connection operations (Figure 4). Once installed, the mooring legs and their anchors would encompass a circular area of

approximately 3,400 feet in diameter, with the SBX mooring location in the center. The installation of each mooring leg would include dragging the anchor assembly approximately 50 to 100 feet along the sea floor. Each anchor would be buried up to 15 feet deep in the seafloor subsurface. A marine contractor would install the permanent mooring system. Installation activities would last approximately 2 to 4 months and involve 20 to 100 people. It is anticipated that installation personnel would be housed onboard installation vessels or in existing facilities ashore. Two buoys would be connected to each anchor leg, for a total of 16 buoys.

The proposed mooring may also include the installation and use of a floating security boom/fence around the SBX. The photos in Figure 5 show typical security boom designs. The security boom would completely surround the SBX and would include a gate to permit access by the Offshore Support Vessel for replenishment and service. The security boom could be placed from 200 to 500 yards away from the SBX as a measure to prevent small watercraft from maneuvering close to the SBX. The security boom/fence would use its own anchoring systems to maintain position in Kuluk Bay. The anchoring system would include approximately forty to one hundred twenty 20-ton anchors, equally spaced around the perimeter of the boom. Chain would be used to connect the anchors to the boom/fence. One buoy would be connected to each anchor, for up to 120 total buoys along the floating security fence. Signage would be installed along the barrier fence.

A complete evaluation of potential environmental impacts can be found in the *Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Sea-Based X-Band Radar Placement and Operation Adak, Alaska Environmental Assessment, March 2005.*

Figure 1 SBX Mooring Study Area and Proposed Mooring Site

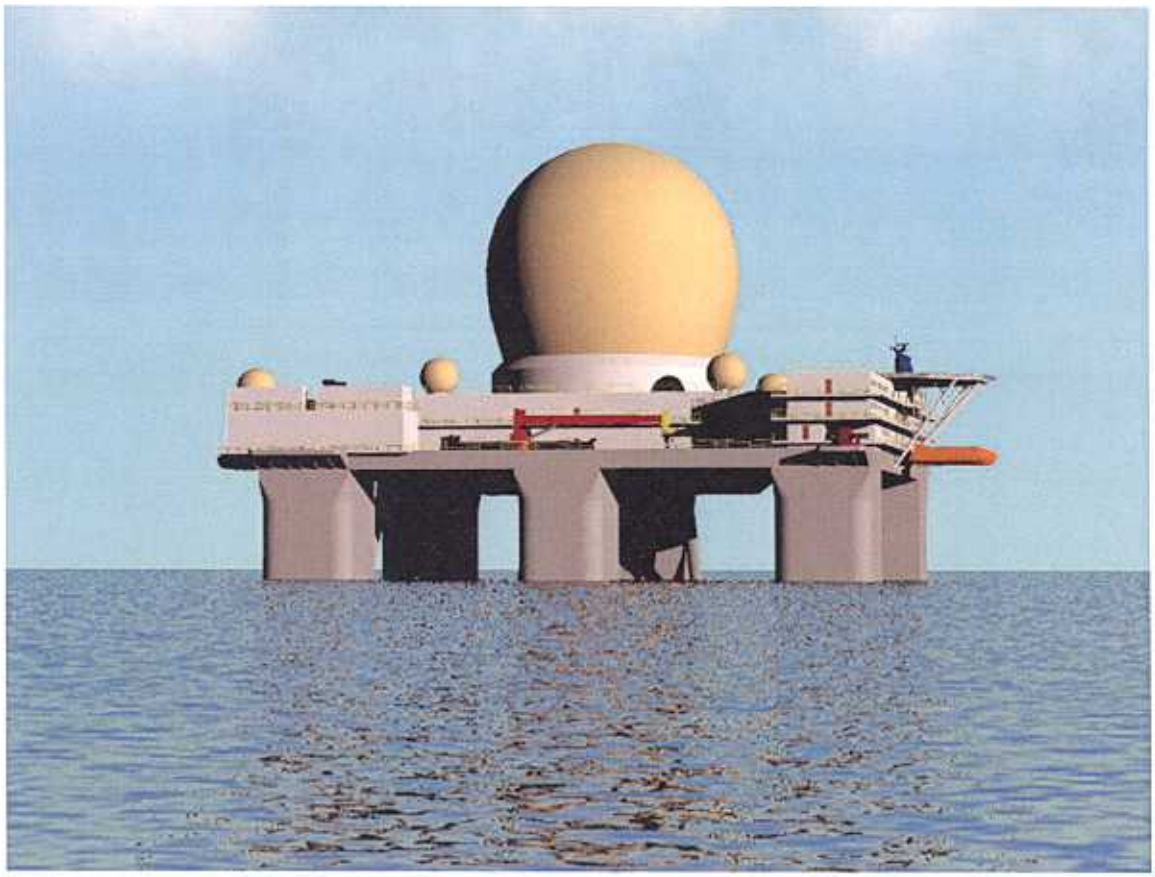
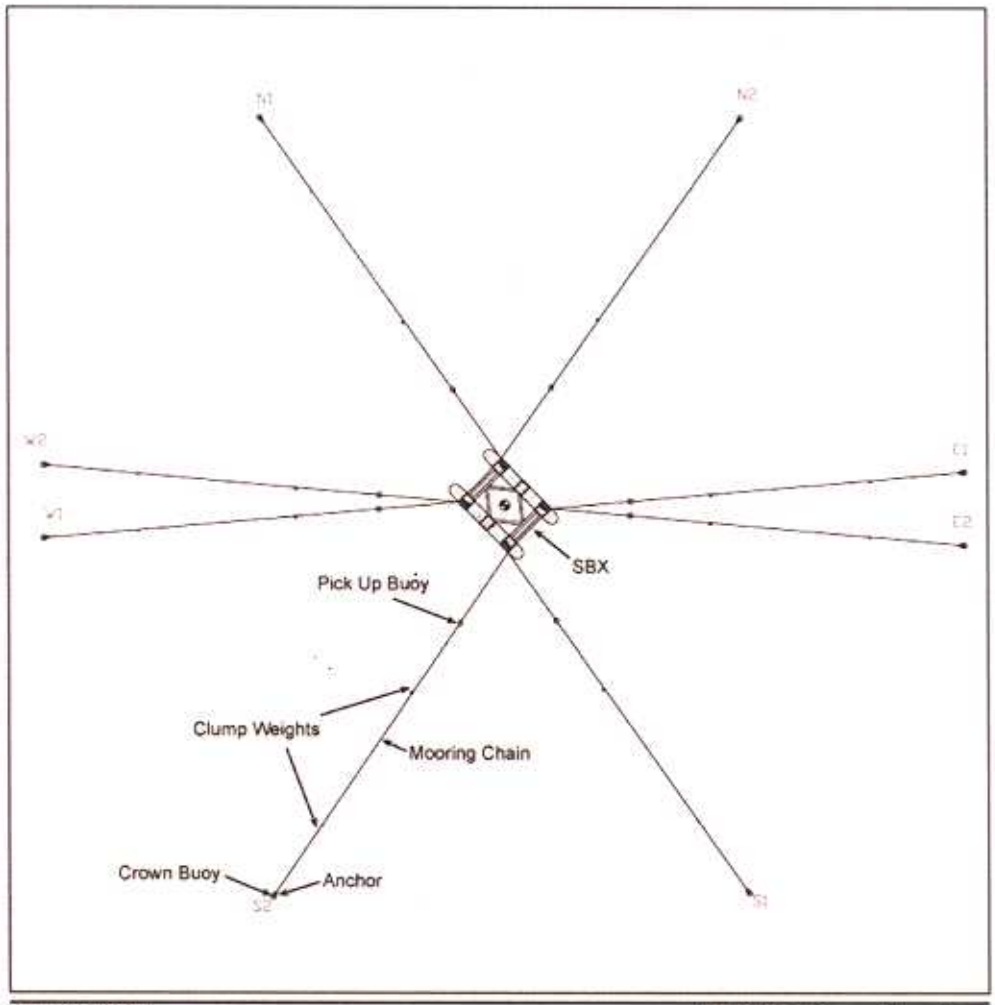


Figure 2 SBX Conceptual Drawing



EXPLANATION

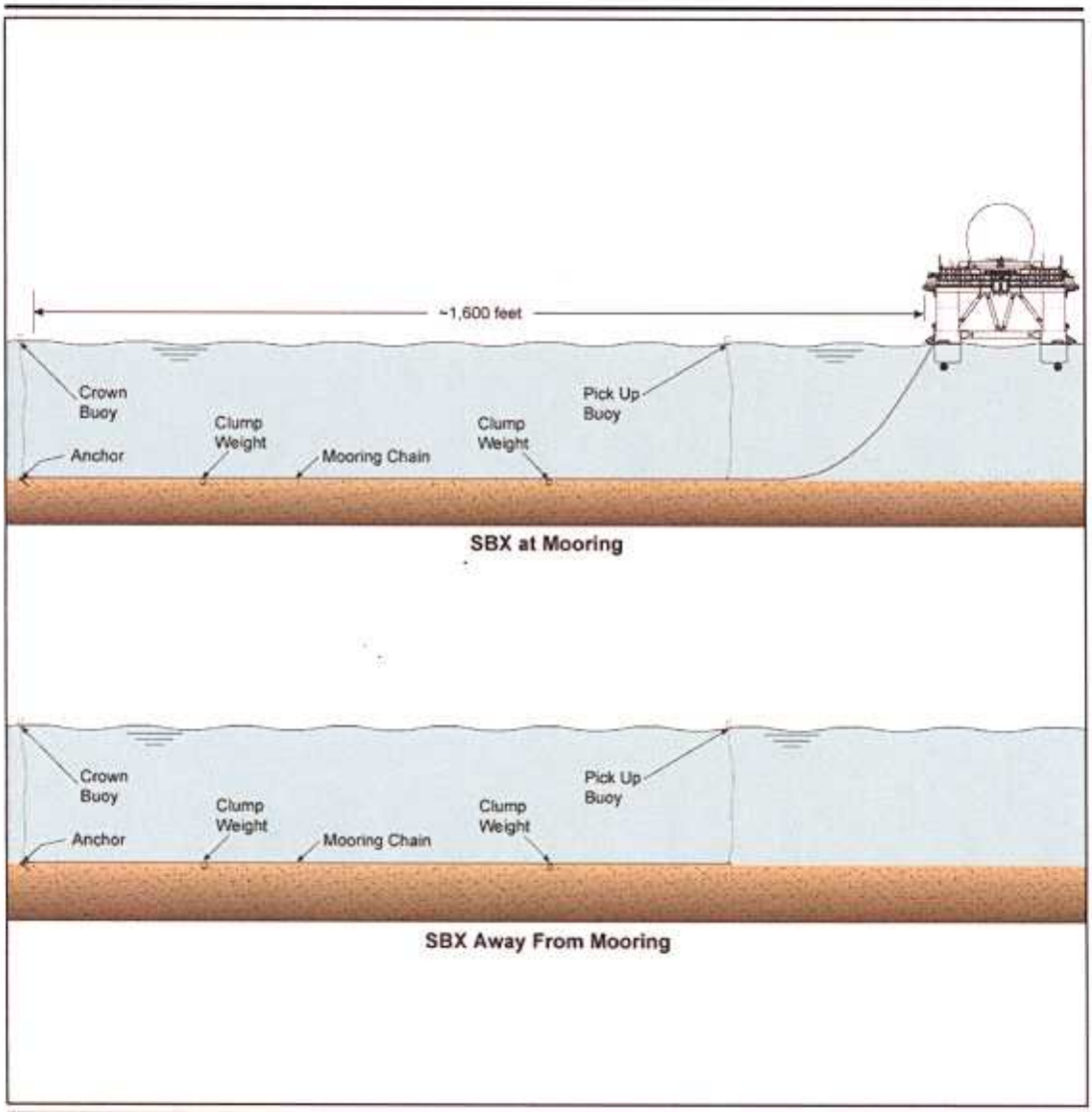
Note: The SBX permanently installed mooring at Kuluk Bay would include eight catenary legs, two connected to each corner of the vessel. The mooring would hold the SBX in place against the effects of winds and seas.

SBX Platform Mooring Configuration

Scale
0 264 527 feet

Figure 2-2

Figure 3 - SBX Platform Mooring Configuration



EXPLANATION

Note: Each leg of the SBX mooring would consist of an anchor to hold the outer end of the leg and two clump weights that act as energy absorbers during severe weather.

SBX Platform Mooring

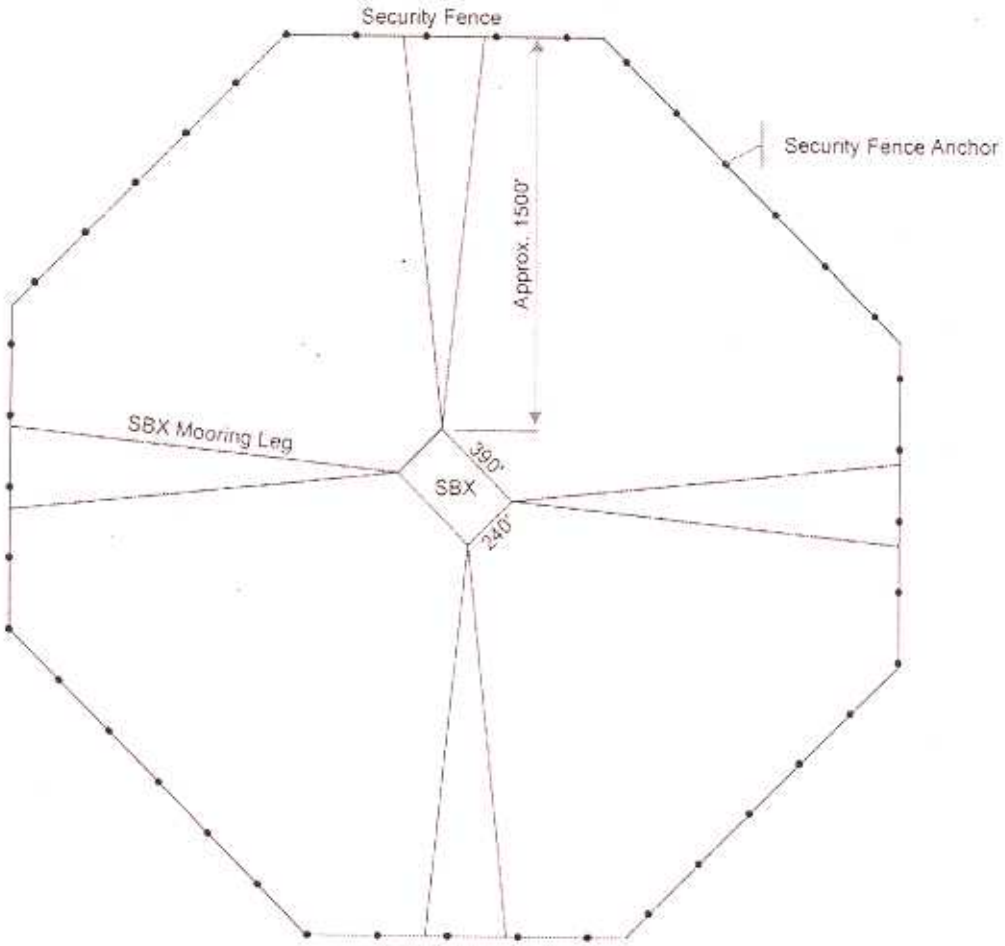
Scale
0 133 265 feet
0 40.5 80.8 meters

Figure 2-3

Figure 4 – Anchor Leg Profile

Figure 5 – Typical Security Boom Designs

SBX Floating Security Barrier and Conceptual Mooring Plan



Approximate Scale

0 250 500 750 1,000 1,250 1,500 Feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Yards

*NOTE: Scale of the drawing is not exact and is based on verbal description.

07 October 2005

POA-2005-523
GMD-JPO (Adak)
10/7/05

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMNT AND PERMITTING

ALASKA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1660
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3568

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-2005-523, Kuluk Bay,** comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

The Office of Project Management and Permitting requests your comments, particularly on the proposed project's consistency with the affected local coastal district management program. For more information on the consistency review contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html.

Attachment 1